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13. C(NEW) The composition of claim 12 further comprising a binder.

14. X(NEW) The composition of claim 12, wherein the branched polymer is used in a quantity of 0.5 to 100 wt.% based on the solid to be dispersed.

15. C(NEW) A coating for powdered or fibrous solids comprising a branched polymer according to claim 1.

16. C(NEW) The coating of claim 15, wherein the branched polymer is used in a quantity of 0.5 to 100 wt.% of the solid.

#### REMARKS

The claims have been amended for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 3, 4, 5, and 8 are amended; claims 9-11 are canceled; and new claims 12-16 are added. Claims 1-8 and 12-16 are now pending in this application. These amendments are not intended to limit the scope of equivalents to which any claim element may be entitled. No new subject matter has been added to the claims. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Respectfully submitted,

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